



King County

Department of Community and Human Services

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Veteran Citizens Levy Oversight Board (VCLOB) Meeting Summary July 15, 2010 2-4 p.m. Valley View Library 17950 Military Rd. S., SeaTac

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Bill Wood at 2:00 p.m.

Roll Call

Board Members Present: Chair Bill Wood, Stan Gunno, Oren Hadaller, Doug Hoople, Vice-Chair Francisco Ivarra, Gary Kingsbury, Cynthia Lefever, Kathy Lewis, Robert Stephens, Jr.,

Board Members Excused/Absent: Ron Forest, Roger Welles

King County Staff Present: Alan Painter, King County Executive's office; Debora Gay, Department of Community and Human Services (DCHS); Jon Hoskins, DCHS; Marcy Kubbs, DCHS; Laird Heia, DCHS.

Guests: Kelli Carroll, King County Council Staff; Megan Heahlke, King County District One Legislative Aid; Sola Plumacher, City of Seattle; Rene Franzen, King County, Mental Health, Chemical Abuse and Dependency Services Division (MHCADSD).

Levy Proposal

Megan Heahlke, Legislative Aide to Councilmember Ferguson and Kelli Carroll, King County Council staff, made a presentation about a new opportunity for expanded legal assistance to veterans. The Northwest Justice Project (NJP) has been awarded a one-year fellowship sponsored by Equal Justice Works and the Corporation for National and Community Service to focus exclusively on assisting at-risk and homeless veterans by removing barriers to housing, employment, and self-sufficiency. This is one of ten AmeriCorps veterans fellowships awarded nationwide. The AmeriCorps Fellow will be a full-time attorney providing a full range of legal services to at-risk and homeless veterans. The Board discussed how the Veterans Levy could support this project. The discussion included the following points:

Discussion

- The board would like to participate by having a representative on the panel hiring the attorney.
- The individual hired would be encouraged to work collaboratively with the Veterans Service Organizations (VSO) across the county.
- The board would like to have a representative on the advisory committee for the project.

- Board members noted their appreciation of Councilmember Ferguson's support of the Levy and the role of the Oversight Board members in advising and monitoring the activities of the Levy.

Action

The board recommended \$12,000 from the Veterans Levy for the Northwest Justice Project the AmeriCorps Fellowship project.

Staff Note

Since the July VCLOB meeting, Doug Hoople (the selected representative of the Board to this project) and county staff met with representatives from the Northwest Justice Project. The hiring process for the fellowship was too far along to include a member of the board on the interview panel however, Doug and staff felt confident in the interview process and the quality of final candidates.

Levy Presentation

Addendum to 2.1/5.7 by Rene Franzen

Addendum 2.1(a.1): Development of a triaged list of the homeless high utilizers of sobering, courts, jails and the health system.

Under this model, King County and Seattle permanent supportive housing projects will select potential tenants from client candidate lists compiled by the MHCADSD and other specified referral sources, such as jail health, based on client utilization of high cost services and on client vulnerability as assessed by a standardized validated assessment tool.

Progress to Date

Significant progress has been made on the High Utilizer Integrated Data (HUID) Project. A database is in the final stages of development and is currently creating triaged lists of homeless high utilizers of sobering, courts, jails, and the health system to coordinate their entry into an array of existing and new set-aside housing units, housing vouchers, or other placements. These triaged lists are a vital link in assisting the newly formed Client Care Coordination model and are now being used to inform the tenant selection for several permanent supportive housing projects that are opening in the summer and fall of 2010. Three of them have identified units for veterans, Compass Renton, Canaday House, and Valley Cities Landing.

Originally, the lists were going to be compiled solely on the basis of service utilization. A standardized vulnerability assessment tool is in the process of being implemented among homeless service providers in King County however, that will allow a vulnerability score to be factored into the process. Homeless individuals who meet target population criteria for a housing project will be scored objectively on their utilization of relevant services and on their vulnerability. This process is intended to assure that individuals in greatest need of the limited housing resources available are those who are prioritized for program entry. The vulnerability assessment tool will be rolled out to the provider network through a training process that will be supported by funds requested under Strategy 5.8.

Proposed Change

MHCADSD is asking to shift funds between line-items in their budget (no additional dollars are being requested). They would like funds originally allocated to the Project Lead to be allocated to the IT application developer who needs additional time to complete the work on the database. This would allow the database to be fully operational by September 1, 2010.

Presentation on Addendum 5.7: Consultation and Training related to protocols and policies for release of information and sharing of patient information by Rene Franzen, Program Manager, MHCADSD

Background

The final procurement plan for Strategy 5.7 was to engage outside consultation and training for the development of protocols and policies related to releasing and sharing of information. The database project manager is also the King County MHCADSD HIPAA Privacy Officer, and came to the project two years ago with considerable experience in privacy and information sharing. In light of her experience, it has not been necessary to seek outside consultation with the funds allocated under this activity.

Proposed Change

The proposed change for strategy 5.7 is to reallocate funds for a 0.5 FTE project manager Privacy Officer, rather than using a consultant.. Using in-house expertise, rather than outside consultation is a more cost-efficient means of providing privacy support than the process originally envisioned for this strategy. A small amount of funds will be reserved for consultation with the prosecuting attorney's office on privacy related issues.

Budget

Originally the funds were to purchase the services of a consultant through an RFP process. The revised plan as noted in the procurement plan is to use in-house expertise of the Privacy Officer (.5 FTE over two years). A portion will be reserved for any necessary consultation and training.

Discussion

Q: Are you working with the VA on the information sharing challenges? A: Yes

Action

The addendum to Procurement Plan 2.1 a-1 and 5.7 to allow for the redistribution of funds as written was approved by the Board.

Presentation on Addendum to 5.8 – Develop a common data set for assessment of adults, youth and families seeking a range of housing, health and human services: Vulnerability Assessment Tool – by Rene Franzen, Program Manager, MHCADSD

Background

According to the SIP, efforts to promote increased cross-systems coordination and service integration are hampered by the absence of standardized tools and data elements for collection of service needs data about adults, youth and families. Levy funds were allocated to develop comprehensive approaches to assess clients entering a variety of systems, including community health clinics. A more unified assessment approach could improve access to needed behavioral health and other services, prevent decompensation or serious illness, expedite communication, and minimize duplication of intake or treatment efforts across multiple systems.

Purpose

Provide training, technical assistance, and implementation of the standardized Vulnerability Assessment Tool (VAT) to assess individuals for placement on candidate lists for housing programs.

Progress to Date

Progress has been achieved in developing a tool for housing placement using other funding. That progress included development, pilot testing, and revision and validation of the tool by the Washington Institute for Mental Health Research and Training at the University of Washington. Consensus on the selection of this tool for the purpose of system wide vulnerability assessment of homeless individuals has also been achieved.

Objectives of New Addendum Activities

The Levy-funded High Utilizer Database (Activity 2.1(a-1)) is providing triaged lists of individuals in need of housing as planned. However, the partnership with the United Way Campaign to End Chronic Homelessness Committee and the Client Care Coordination Council, who have oversight responsibility for this process, have identified the need to have an alternate means to identify individuals who meet the focus stated in the Service Improvement Plan (SIP) of providing safe, decent affordable housing for highly vulnerable individuals who have been living on the streets or in shelters for extended periods. The SIP also states (page 10), "The proceeds shall be used primarily to prevent or reduce homelessness and unnecessary involvement in the criminal justice and emergency medical systems for veterans, military personnel and their families and other individuals and families most at risk." The VAT will enhance the ability to identify these vulnerable individuals.

The VAT will be implemented once screening staff at participating programs are trained. Individuals will receive a vulnerability score based on assessment of multiple domains, such as severity of medical and psychiatric conditions, ability to care for themselves, history of victimization, etc. A weighted scoring system will be developed to allow integration of vulnerability scores with utilization scores. This unified approach to assessing need meets the 5.8 strategy goals of promoting increased cross-systems coordination and service integration and of improving service access while expediting communication and minimizing duplication of intake efforts across multiple systems.

Budget

\$101,000 to fund Activity 5.8, Common Data Set are transferred from unspent funds in activity 5.1 Evaluation for the VAT project, split 50/50 between Veterans and Human services funds.

Discussion

Q: How does VAT work? A: A clinician meets with a client and reviews specific questions outlined in the VAT. That data is tallied and a vulnerability number is calculated based on these responses. This is a pilot project which we hope to take forward to make it a national best practice.

Action

The Procurement Plan 5.8 to fund this activity as described above under "Budget" was approved by the Board.

Presentation on Addendum to 5.5 Safe Harbors – by Sola Plumacher – City of Seattle

Purpose

The original Procurement Plan for Strategy 5.5 states that "use of the 2009-2011 levy funds envisioned for Safe Harbors will be addressed in an addendum to this program design paper (page 6)." The information following outlines the ongoing plan for the use of these dollars.

Proposed Changes/Workplan

- Safe Harbors will continue to provide support to over 300 users as staff transition out of current positions, new staff is added and general ongoing support is needed. Two FTE's will complete this work.
- Safe Harbors expects to add roughly 15 non-publically funded agencies and will need additional data entry and support staff to ensure that effort is successful. Ensuring the participation of non-required agencies strengthens Seattle/King County's competitiveness in obtaining federal McKinney funding for homeless housing and supportive services dollars.
- One FTE will be added to support all help desk requests coming into the Safe Harbors help desk line providing additional training, problem solving data entry issues, and providing tools for data quality assessment.
- A variety of reports need to be developed in the system to meet additional funder report requirements as part of the combined funder alignment in King County. Each report will require ongoing system development by the HMIS vendor.
- Safe Harbors will be supporting six data integration agencies to ensure accurate and timely uploads of data to the HMIS to meet local, state and federal reporting requirements.
- Safe Harbors will work aggressively with HMIS participants to ensure proper and complete recording of veterans' information that continues to be under represented in the overall continuum-wide data.
- Safe Harbors staff will provide data to the King County Community Services Division for evaluation of the Veterans and Human Services Levy outcomes.

Budget

The SIP allocated a total of \$1,125,000 to implement this activity. In the original Procurement Plan for Activity 5.5, the City of Seattle was awarded \$600,000 in Levy funding with the balance to be available when the boards were provided a plan for the use of the remaining funds. The budget request outlined in the addendum to the procurement plan (\$525,000) would support the implementation of the proposed workplace and allocate the balance of levy funds available for this activity.

Discussion:

Q: How would swipe cards be used? A: Swipe cards would be used for individuals using drop in centers and high use shelters. The hope is it will allow for significant improvement in speed and accuracy of data quality.

Action:

The addendum to the procurement plan for Strategy 5.5 was approved by the Board.

Review of Meeting Summary

The May 20, 2010 VCLOB meeting summary was approved as written.

Chair's Report

- Bill Wood, VCLOB Chair summarized the June 9th Regional Policy Committee (RPC) meeting at which he presented. He was grateful to have the opportunity to share the outstanding work of the levy boards.
- VCLOB members were encouraged to set up appointments with their County Councilmembers to update them on the work of the levy in their district and around the county and to ask for their support of the levy renewal.

King County Staff Report

- An additional RPC meeting was held in July and the VHS Levy 2009 Annual Report was approved.
- Staff is starting to write the second bi-annual report and an evaluation report which are planned to be submitted together to the Executive's office on August 31. Staff will brief the RPC on these reports in September.
- The Valley Cities Landing housing facility Ribbon-Cutting will be held on Friday August 27, 2010.

Old Business

Gary Kingsbury noted that the Veterans and Human Services Levy will likely be competing with other levies that will be on the ballot in 2011.

New Business

Board members requested a list of where veteran's services can be found. Marcy encouraged members to go the website to see the map that lists all veterans' services sites. Laird will send the link out to the board.

Alan Painter, Health and Housing Policy Advisor to the Executive and representing the Executive at this meeting, expressed his appreciation for the work of the board. He indicated he is impressed by the depth of knowledge and understanding each member brings to the table and looks forward to the many more discussions with the board in the future.

Public Comment

None.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 p.m.